

JAMES M. MORGAN.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 484.]

JUNE 10, 1842.

Mr. COWEN, from the Committee of Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

*The Committee of Claims, to which was referred the petition of James M. Morgan, report:*

That it appears that the petitioner was employed by his excellency Governor Lucas, Governor of the Territory of Iowa, in December, 1839, to bear despatches from Governor Lucas to the Secretary of State at Washington city. Mr. Morgan performed the service and met all necessary expenses. For these services and expenses he has received nothing; and, as there is no law authorizing the payment by the Department, this application for a special act for his relief is made.

The letter of Governor Lucas to the Hon. C. Johnston, dated March 16, 1840, herewith printed, shows the circumstances under which Mr. Morgan was employed. The memorial of the Territorial Legislature of Iowa, also printed with this report, shows the opinion of that body of this claim, as well as the facts upon which the claim rests.

The petitioner has furnished a bill of the particulars of his demand. He charges \$116 50 for his travelling expenses from Burlington, Iowa, to Washington city; the same amount is charged for the expenses upon his return to Iowa. He charges for forty days, at \$6 per day, in addition to his travelling expenses. The total charged is \$473. The committee think the petitioner entitled to relief. They recommend that he be allowed at the rate of six dollars per day, and stage and steamboat fare, and hire of horses. This, according to his showing in his bill, and what appears from the vouchers before the committee, will reduce his claim to \$378. This sum the committee think him entitled to, and report a bill accordingly.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, IOWA TERRITORY,  
Burlington, March 16, 1840.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ult.

In answer, I have to state that, on the 9th of December last, General James M. Morgan was employed by me as a bearer of despatches to the Secretary of State of the United States.

At that time the dispute as to boundary between this Territory and the State of Missouri had assumed an aspect which, in my opinion, required the immediate action either of the President of the United States or of Congress; and the uncertainty of the conveyance of despatches from this to the seat of Government, by mail, in a *reasonable length of time*, at that season of the year, were such as, in my opinion, made it necessary to employ a special messenger.

No understanding was had with Mr. Morgan as to the pay he was to receive. It was to be presumed, however, that the Government would remunerate him for that service. In my opinion Mr. Morgan's claim upon the Government for pay for his services is *clearly* a matter of right.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

ROBERT LUCAS.

Hon. C. JOHNSON, *Chairman of Military Committee, H. R.*

*A memorial to Congress praying an appropriation for the compensation of James M. Morgan.*

Your memorialists, members of the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Iowa, respectfully represent that, in December, 1839, James M. Morgan, of this Territory, was employed by the Governor of this Territory to convey with despatch to the Secretary of State of the United States certain letters of said Governor, and other documents, in relation to the difficulties at that time existing between the State of Missouri and this Territory in relation to the boundary line between said State and Territory; that said Morgan did faithfully perform the duty imposed upon him by the Governor, paying his expenses out of his own private funds, but with the understanding that he would be remunerated for said services and expenses by the State Department at Washington; that, on presenting his account against the Government at the State Department, the same was adjusted according to the rules of that Department, but, on inquiry, it was found that there was no fund within the control of said Department from which the said Morgan could legally be paid, although his claim was acknowledged to be just. The amount of the claim, as regulated by the rules of the State Department, is \$483.

Your memorialists have every reason to believe that, taking into consideration the high price of travelling from this Territory to Washington in the winter season of the year, and the delay to which said Morgan was subjected in attempting to effect a settlement of his account, the amount claimed would not more than cover the actual expenses of said Morgan; and your memorialists submit it to the justice of Congress to make a fair allowance above the amount of the claim.

Your memorialists would further represent that said Morgan, after failing to obtain any compensation from the State Department, applied, by individual petition, to Congress; that the Senate of the United States, at two successive sessions, passed a bill providing for the payment of said Morgan; that the first bill providing for his compensation was not reached in the order of business in the House; and that the second one was referred to the Committee of Claims in the House of Representatives, which

committee reported that the claim ought to be paid out of the Territorial fund.

Your memorialists regard the claim as a just one, the services being rendered to the Government under authority of a Government officer ; and your memorialists therefore think the same should be paid for by the Government. The vouchers, &c., for the expenses of said Morgan are, we believe, in the hands of the Committee of Claims in the House of Representatives, to which your memorialists respectfully refer your honorable body.

Your memorialists would suggest that there is a necessity for an early appropriation in this case ; and, believing the claim to be a most just one, your memorialists humbly pray that the same may be at once allowed ; and your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

*Resolved*, That one copy of said memorial be forwarded to A. C. Dodge, our Delegate in Congress.

WARNER LEWIS,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

J. W. PARKER,

*President of Council.*

Approved February 17, 1842.

JOHN CHAMBERS.

*Territory of Iowa, set :*

I, Otho H. W. Stull, Secretary of the said Territory, do certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the enrolled resolution on file in my office.

O. H. W. STULL,

*Secretary of Territory.*

